114 Mr. Pelleschi has done what Dr. Leuz is doing in Chile for the Araucanos, and with as much ground for applause.

In the author's published work my secretary and I have had no part other than that of ordering it alphabetically and compiling a Mataco-Spanish lexicon, without which no study of a language can be considered complete.

As the original is in Italian I have had to translate that part of the book which is here reproduced, leaving the checking and correcting to the author. The English understood the importance of 000 the work before [621] we did and it was shameful that the most modern and most complete description of our Indians was written in a foreign language and had not been put into the national tongue. The Geographic Institute, by means of this publication has erased that black mark, and has gone further by adding the vocabularies etc., which are lacking in the original and which give so much greater value to this work.

It is not altogether impossible that the author will make a study, later on, of what is here published in order to perfect his essay on the grammar of the Mataco language. But even if he were not to do this, what has been published is enough to give us a pretty full grasp of what the language of these Indians is and what it is not.

As the translation has been checked by the author himself, those passages which may appear to be incomplete or in which it may be observed that extra material has been inserted, are to be laid at the author's door, as must also all new material with which the work has been supplemented.

In the key which precedes the vocabularies the derivation of ● 104 words and phrases will be designated together with the key letter. As will readily be understood, this is a valuable addition to the vocabularies, for a new word, heard only once and from one person is exposed to error, but when its lexical and phonetic value is attested several times over, little doubt can remain about it. On this score also is Mr. Pelleschi's work highly interesting, it being a step in the direction of a better understanding of the tangled phonology of the Chaco languages of the Guaycurú type, of which Mataco is an important part.

000 The map was made by Guido Jacobacci, Engineer, in accord with information which we have given him and with the help of the map of Father Jolis and Corrado, and also of Araos'. One can see

3: Metraux E-5 (1933) 1939 SI7 Mataco SI7

I must stress here that the material and the spiritual culture of the Chaco tribes — half nomadic, living on mesquite, game and fish — recalls many of the conditions prevailing among North American tribes, especially those in California and certain aspects of these of the prairies. Most of the parallels which have been drawn between North American and South American ethnology rest on the culture of the very tribes among whom I was lucky enough to get the tales which I present here.

Once more I should like to call the attention of ethnologists to the abundance of material which still may be collected in South America. For a few years more there will remain the opportunity to study primitive Indian cultures functioning in their entirety. But the extraordinary riches of South American ethnology are being wasted and lost. Every year sees the passing of a tribe or of a culture. Old medicine-men, knowing the traditions of their groups, die without transmitting their knowledge. Thus the chances of scrutinizing the past culture of America grow fewer each year. South America is the least known of all the continents and its tribes are the most mysterious peoples. May I give the alarm before it is too late to grasp the now plentiful material?

Unfortunately I had little opportunity to study the phonetics of the Matako language, and I am convinced that my transcriptions might be improved. I used the following system of transcription for the native words.

č is more or less like the Spanish »ch», but slightly palatalized.

x is a surd velar fricative.

k is an aspirated back palatal.

L is the voiceless »l».

ʔ stands for the glottal stop. Glottalized consonants though existing in Matako, do not appear in the words quoted in this paper. The vowel *a* has a different quality according to the region. Along the Pilcomayo is *a* a mid-back narrow sound quite near the open »o».

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~ on a vowel indicates nasalization.
' on a vowel marks the accentuation.

As far as possible I tried to give the pronunciation of the region of Embarcación, though Pedro spoke another dialect.

A. THE UNIVERSE

1. The Upper and the Lower World (Pedro)

There are two worlds, one above and the other below. Once the world above our heads was in the place of the earth where we live. But the earth (still further) below did not like to be soiled by the excrement of the people dwelling in the sky and therefore it changed places with the earth above. Formerly sky and earth were connected by a big tree (*niLɔk*). The men of this earth climbed up it and went to hunt in the world above. Once a number of them climbed up and succeeded in killing a jaguar. When they divided the meat, they foolishly gave the stomach to an old man. He was so indignant at getting such a miserable portion that he burned the tree, thereby avenging himself. The men who had climbed up could not get down and they still live in the sky. They are a constellation formed by many stars (Pleiades: *patseLai*).

When these first people went to the sky to hunt, they left their children at home. A mother, knowing she would never again rejoin her child on earth, threw him from the sky a deer skin bag filled with honey. The children grew up, they were our fathers.

2. The Compartments of the World (Pedro)

The world is divided into three compartments; the earth the sky and the underworld. In the underworld there are fields like those we have here. The underworld is the abode of the dead. We know it is because we can go there in our dreams to visit our dead relatives. The medicine-men also